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Sweden Adds Cost Of Espionage

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The most immediate problem confronting the Swedish Government in the wake of the Stig Wennerström espionage case is revamping of national defense systems.

Observers estimate that it will cost the country about \$55,000,000 to repair the damage wrought by the former Swedish Air Force lieutenant colonel during his 15 years of espionage for the Soviet Union.

This year the government plans to ask Parliament for an extra defense appropriation of \$10,000,000.

Called 'Excuse'

But voices already have been heard from the extreme left wing that the Social Democratic government is using this opportunity to push extra military appropriations through Parliament using the stormy Wennerström affair as an excuse.

Swedish observers brush these protests off as unimportant. They have not come from the three democratic opposition parties—the Conservatives, the Liberals, and the Center Party.

The original Swedish defense budget for the 1963-64 fiscal year was about \$800,000,000.

Extent Unknown

There has been no detailed information about precisely what secrets Wennerström gave the Soviets and it is likely it will never be officially known. However, considering his position on the Air Force staff, it is safe to assume the Soviets have been fully informed about every aspect of Sweden's defenses.

This most likely includes the development plans for System 37, the largest single defense project ever undertaken by the country. "System 37" plans include 800 supersonic jet fighter planes, radar-guided missiles, and an early warning radar system—all of which are to be coordinated through the use of electronic computers. The first planes are to be delivered in 1969.

Traditionally, defense and foreign policy matters have been nonpartisan questions with both the Social Democrats and the democratic opposition parties working closely together.

The Wennerström case and the two votes of censure over it in Parliament, which the government easily survived, may have seriously undermined this harmony.